

THE OWL's HOOT

A publication of the
Ozarks Writers League
a 501(c)3
www.ozarkswritersleague.org

Editor: Kimberly Gross
Kimberly@touchstoneservices.net

Volume 28, Number 2

1983-2011

May, 2011



May is for Motivation!



From Dust to Diamonds with Elizabeth Lyon

Every writer deserves publication. Few manuscripts are ready. Why? They need to be well crafted and revised until they glow in the dark. These workshops will give beginners the pick and shovel to dig out ore, provide the apprentice with tumblers to polish, and give professionals more gems to put in their bag.

Morning Session: *Writing for Voice, Revising for Style*

Editors and agents favor a voice or style that is “fresh, original.” The problem is how to unearth it. One technique will guide you into your imagination to the Eureka discovery of true gold. The second technique takes that gold and refines it by using smart “wordsmithing” that shows how to make changes in syntax, diction, word choice, power positions, and imagery. These two vastly different techniques are designed to turn dull, lifeless prose into vibrant, exciting writing.

Afternoon Session: *Writing for a Character-Driven Plot, Revising for a Page Turner* A successful character (or narrator in a memoir) is so fully developed and memorable that he or she outlives the author in the minds and hearts of readers. Yet, most writers unknowingly leave their main characters, especially their protagonists, underdeveloped, contributing to a stagnant story. We’ll work on crafting character yearnings, thematic backstories, using contrasting and complementary strengths and weaknesses, developing unique tags, and tapping the power of metaphoric language to increase character uniqueness. Then, you’ll learn dust-to-diamonds techniques to increase suspense, deepen characters and, most important of all, keep your readers flipping the pages to see what happens next.

Bio: Elizabeth Lyon has worked as an independent book editor and writing teacher for two decades and is author of *A Writer’s Guide to Fiction*, *A Writer’s Guide to Nonfiction*, *The Sell Your Novel Tool Kit*, *Nonfiction Book Proposals Anybody Can Write*, and *National directory of Editors & Writers*. *The Boston Globe* selected Lyon’s 6th book, *Manuscript Makeover*, in the 12/09 issue of *The Writer*, as one of “8 great writing books in 2008” and as “perhaps the most comprehensive book on revising fiction.” Elizabeth lives in Springfield, Oregon.

HELP GET THE WORD OUT

We’re asking OWL members to help get the word out about Elizabeth Lyon’s writing workshop at the May meeting. Please go to the OWL web site (www.ozarkswritersleague.org) and copy the article headed “May Meeting Press Release.” Please distribute it to any media outlets in your area that you think might use it. That includes radio and TV stations and newspapers.

Our publicity chair, Cliff Sain, does a great job of getting press releases out in the region, but it’s impossible for him to cover all the areas. It is much easier

(Continued on page 2)



**OWL is now on
Facebook. Visit soon
and join the gang!**

**Log in and search for
Ozarks Writers League—
leave a post to share.**

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Has time always gone by this fast and I just never noticed? That's a question I've pondered lately when I consider my goals for this year. I thought I was really making an effort, until I heard this quote from Yoda of Star Wars. Yoda says, "There is no try. There is only do or not do." That struck pretty

close to home for me. I find myself saying things like, "I try to finish that book, but have to do this or that." "I try to complete a short story to enter the contest, but instead must do this or that." Yoda is right. "Try" is just an excuse, and no more excuses for me. How about you?

I'm looking forward to May's workshop with Elizabeth Lyon. I've read dozens, if not hundreds, of writing books, but hers impress me. Her advice and information is so clear and easy to understand, I found myself thinking, "Of course, why didn't I get that before?" You won't want to miss her workshop. The profile on page one has more information on Ms. Lyon.

May is our annual lunch and fun-filled auction. You'll find complete information inside. I'm counting on all you OWL members (which I know I can always do) to help us beat last year's auction results, by bringing in lots of auction items and buying lots of items. In order to top last year, we have to make \$1,552.51. (No one has said what happens to me if we don't hit the goal, but knowing some people's minds, I don't want to find out). The member who donates the item with the

highest bid will take home a basket full of prizes. I've been working on the basket and it is not only full, but so heavy I can hardly lift it. (And no, it doesn't have any of my biscuits inside).

The winner of the Cliff Edom Photography Contest will be announced at the May conference. I'm currently waiting for the judge's results to see who that talented photographer is so I can rush out to get the trophy inscribed.

Have you entered the membership contest yet? You must know at least one prospective member. Sign them up and write your name on the back of their application before it's sent in. The drawing will be held at the November Hillbilly Formal awards dinner.

It isn't too early to start getting those entries in for the OWL yearly contests, due September 1. If you've lost your contest brochure, check out the website for information.

Please check the OWL web site often. It's how we communicate with you between conferences and announce the program for the next conference. I also send out emails, but the web site is a fast way to get news out to all, so check regularly.

We had beautiful weather and a good turnout for the February conference. Those not there missed hearing three good speakers. Congratulations to the Art & Photography Show winners who are listed inside.

Is there anyone who would like to be our "unofficial" photographer? We love to have photos for the newsletter, but often are too busy to take them. If you're interested, contact me at deloism@gmail.com.

Remember our mantra for this year, "Triumph comes through perseverance."

Delois



(HELP Continued from page 1)

for members to contact the media where they live.

We are also attempting to put a poster on the web site about the workshop that you can print off and post at your local library and any other places you can think of. If the poster doesn't work out, you can print off and post the article titled, "OWL Writer's Workshop with Elizabeth Lyon."

Harold Pelton receives 1st Place for Photography from contest chair Regina



Owl Happenings!

* ANNUAL AUCTION IN MAY

The annual auction will be held on Saturday, **May 21**, immediately after lunch on the patio, inside the Plaster auditorium where the meetings are held. Auction items will be on display in the morning, so you can browse.

This is the only annual OWL fundraiser. The money collected is used to obtain speakers and to foster literacy, such as the annual children's contest.

The auction's success over the past few years can be directly attributed to the OWL members who donate items and also make winning bids. The income from the auction has steadily grown throughout the years. We made \$900 one year and thought that was terrific. Last year's income was \$1,552, so you can see how the members' support has increased.

We already have some great auction items, including a bicycle, a critique by well-known literary agent Cherry Weiner, publication of 10 copies of a book from High Hill Press, several tickets to Branson shows, and tickets from casinos for a night's stay with dinner for two.

In the past, some donated items created bidding wars, like last year's red boots. It's always fun to see what the next sought-after item will be. As always, the member who donates the item that brings the highest bid wins a prize basket full of goodies.

So, thanks to all who have supported the auction in the past, and thanks ahead of time to all of you who will support this year's. On May 21, bring your auction items directly into the meeting room where tables will be set up to hold them.

AND NOW, THE WINNERS! of the February Art & Photo Show

Art

- 1st - Derlyne Gibson
- 2nd - Jory Sherman
- 3rd - Derlyne Gibson

Photography

- 1st - Harold Pelton
- 2nd - Patty Stith
- 3rd - Regina Williams

Alternative Art

- 1st - Charlene Gastineau
- 2nd - Zona Crabtree
- 3rd - Patty Stith

Best of Show Charlene Gastineau



*OWL
President
Delois
announces
the Art Show
winners*



How many OWLs does it take to set up a show?

Catch a Writers Conference!

Feb., May, Aug., Nov.
- **3rd Saturday**
Ozarks Writers
League, Branson

May - 1st weekend
Oklahoma Writers
Federation, Inc.
OKC

June - 1st weekend
Arkansas Writers
Conference, Little
Rock

July - 2nd Saturday
Ozark Romance
Authors, Springfield

August 18-19 - Ozark
Adventures Writing
Workshop, Hollister,
MO

Sept. - 1st Saturday
White County
Writers, Harding
University

Oct. - 2nd weekend
Ozark Creative
Writers, Eureka
Springs

March - Free one-day
NWA Writers
Workshop,
Fayetteville

April - 2nd weekend:
Missouri Writers
Guild in Various
locations

This n' That

MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR FRIDAY DINNER AND OPEN MIC

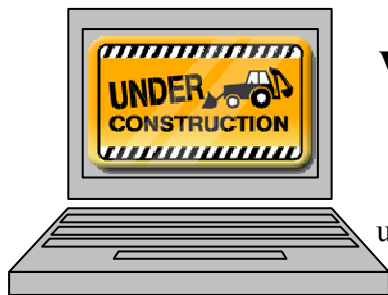
The regular Friday night get-together and open mic is scheduled for **May 20**, the evening before the conference on May 21. Dinner will start at 5:30 in the Boxcar Willie Inn meeting room, and open mic will follow at 6:30 p.m..

Reservations for dinner and open mic must be made no later than **May 16** so we can notify the caterer how many will be there. Dinner is \$9.00 and will be paid at the door.

To make reservations for either the dinner or the open mic (or both), contact Lou Turner at louturn@aol.com. If you plan to read at open mic, please include a short bio in your email. When you email Lou to make your reservations, put in the subject line of your email the following: "OWL May Friday night reservations."

If you don't plan to have dinner, but only read at the open mic, that is perfectly acceptable. Just be sure to let Lou know.

Time for the readings is limited to five minutes per person, but that is flexible depending on the number of people reading that night.



WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We hope you'll bear with us as we once again undergo construction of the OWL website. Member Richard

Howk has agreed to oversee the new site and he and Lou Turner are working to make the transition. Lou says she feels confident that Richard will deliver a great website for OWL.

If it weren't for Lou, there wouldn't be an OWL website. She not only single-handedly put up the site, but paid for it too. We can't thank her enough for her loyalty, hard work, and long hours spent working on it..

We're committed to delivering a fully functional, easily maneuvered site for you OWL members, so hang in there with us.

MAY LUNCH RESERVATIONS DUE

Before the annual auction in May, lunch will be served on the patio of Plaster Auditorium. Cost of the lunch is \$7.00, and reservations must be made **no later than May 12**. The caterer has to know by then how many will be there, so she can order the food. Send your reservation to Delois at deloism@gmail.com. Having lunch right there is convenient for us, and gives us a chance to visit and network with one another.

After the lunch and auction, the workshop will continue at 2:00 p.m.



Women of OWL share secrets of storytelling

CONTEST DEADLINES

Entries for all contests are due on **September 1**. That includes all the annual OWL category contests and also the Echoes of the Ozarks Anthology contest.

Complete instructions for entering the OWL contests and where to send them is on the web site, as well as for the anthology contest. If you'd like a contest brochure for the annual category contests, contact Delois at deloism@gmail.com.

All category contest entries (2 copies) should be sent to Delois McGrew, P.O. Box 9076, Fayetteville, AR 72703.

Board News

Awards & Anthology

OZARKS WRITERS LEAGUE

Minutes of Board Meeting February 19, 2011

Members Present: Dusty Richards, Fred Pfister, Brenda Brinkley, Jan Morrill, Patti Stith, Regina Williams, Harold Pelton, Ruth Weeks, and Ellen Withers.

Secretary's Report: November meeting minutes were approved (with corrected copy provided by Delois).

Treasurer's Report: The quarterly report was accepted as emailed to the board, reflecting a December balance of \$5,402.62. It was voted that treasurer Brenda be authorized to continue managing the checking account, income and expenses reports of OWL in 2011. One signature will be required on the checks.

President's Report: Elizabeth Lyon will speak in May, and we will hold our annual auction fundraiser and lunch. Tim Huddleston, Dean of Development with the College of the Ozarks, sent a thank you for our \$500 scholarship. Ruth Weeks was appointed as historian.

OWL is again sponsoring the foster children's writing contest, working with the *Ambassadors for Children* agency. Budget is \$300; the winners will be announced in May. OWL brochures will be used for wide distribution to increase membership; a professional printer will be used.

Art & Photo Show Results: There were 72 photographs in the show and 25 entries of art and alternative art. The contest was declared a success.

Membership Report: As of February 15: 160 paid members; 23 new members; 98 non-paid members; 12 honorary members; and 23 life members, totaling 293. As part of our active membership initiatives, Patti, Ruth and Jan will go to local colleges to tell them about OWL.

Website/Newsletter Report: Lou is working on the new computer software; Jan offered to assist her.

Publicity Report: 35 different media outlets are being alerted about OWL meetings: 20 newspapers, 10 radio stations, 4 TV stations, and a Branson-area blog.

Anthology Report: Anthology sales are still doing well. The cost for Echoes of the Ozarks VI was \$2,132 and the current sales figures are \$2,550, so there is a small profit.

Classroom Visit: Jan reported that she spoke to the College of the Ozarks writing class about opportunities for them with OWL. She left 50 brochures and Anthology information.

Old Business: Patti and Ellen reported they contacted four TV stations in their areas to publicize meetings. Fred reported on the search for a larger room for open mic nights and Elenita's for lunch on conference day.

CHILDREN'S CONTEST AWARDS

We're privileged again this year to join with the *Ambassadors for Children* to sponsor the Children's Writing Contest. This contest is for children who are currently involved with a Child Protective Services Caseworker in Greene County. The contest covers three grade categories: 5th-7th, 8th-10th, and 11th-12th graders.

Certificates and money prizes will be awarded at the beginning of the conference on May 21st. Not all winners will be able to attend, but representatives from Ambassadors for Children will be on hand to accept for them.

As with last year, please do not take photographs of any of the children in attendance.



Dusty with his rapt audience

ANNUAL ECHOES OF THE OZARKS ANTHOLOGY CONTEST

The Echoes of the Ozarks Anthology Contest entries are due **September 1** and are to be sent electronically to Lou Turner at louturn@aol.com. Be sure to include the words, "Echoes Submission" in the subject line.

Guidelines for the anthology are posted on the OWL website. Entries this year may be short stories, essays, poetry, and photographs. All winners will be published in the anthology and may purchase the book at a discounted price.



Kudos to OWL Members!



CONRAD ARELLANO and SALLY BARRITT: COLUMN: *Missouri Life* (4/11; 5/11).

SHANNON CAVANAUGH: Short Story: Ozark Writers Inc. and High Hill Press (10/11).

LINDA FISHER: Missouri Writers Guild, BEST SHORT STORY: 2nd Place; SHOW-ME BOOK AWARD: 3rd Place; FLASH FICTION: HM; CCMWG Well Versed, FICTION: 1st Place; CCMWG Well Versed, FICTION: HM.

NANCY HARTNEY: Articles: *Dead Mule* (3/11); *Horsemen's Round Up* (2/11); *The Chronicle of the Horse* (1/11).

GARY R. HOFFMAN: Short Stories: *Woman's World* (4/11 & 6/11); *Mysteries of the Ozarks, Vol. IV* (10/11); *A Golden Place Ezine* (3/11); *Storyteller* (1/11).

MIKE KOCH: Short Story Anthology: *Static Movement* (12/10); Tulsa Nightwriters Warmup Contest, SHORT STORY: 1st Place.

DALE LUND: Article: *Naturally Magazine* (Spring/11).

KATHALEEN MCCRITE DEISER (K.D. MCCRITE): NOVELS: *Deed in the Attic*, DRG Publications (4/13); *In Front of God and Everybody*, Thomas Nelson (5/10)

JAN MORRILL: Missouri Writers' Guild Contest, BEST TRAVEL ARTICLE: 1st Place; HUMOROUS ARTICLE OR ESSAY: 1st Place; SHORT STORY: 3rd Place; HISTORIC/NOSTALGIC ARTICLE: 3rd HM.

W.E. (Bill) MUELLER: St. Louis Writers Guild, SHORT STORY, 3rd Place.

LEE ANN SONTHEIMER MURPHY: NOVEL: *Love Tattoo*, Evernight Publishing (3/11); ESSAY: *Chicken Soup For The Soul - Grandmothers* (3/11).

RADINE TREES NEHRING: Short Story: *Mysteries of the Ozarks, Vol. III*, High Hill Press (04/11); 7 previously published books: Kindle, Nook, others (3/11)

BARBARA GIBBS OSTMANN: Articles: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (11/10, 12/10); *Washington Missourian* (1/11); *Missouri Life* (2/11, 4/11); *Ozarks Mountaineer* (2/11); *Feaststl.com* (11/10, 12/10, 1/11, 3/11); *stlspout.com* (12/10, 1/11, 3/11), *sallys-place.com* (3/11); Mark Twain Travel Writing Awards, TRAVEL, 2nd place.

NANCY PEACOCK: Saturday Writers, SHORT STORY: 6th & 7th Place; Abilene Writers Guild, FICTION FOR ADULTS, HM; Short Story, *Mystery of the Ozarks, Vol. III*.

DUKE PENNELL: Hired as MANUSCRIPT EDITOR for Solstice Publishing (1/11).

DUSTY RICHARDS: BEST WESTERN PAPERBACK: Western Writers of America Spur AWARD, finalist; NOVEL *Wulf's Tracks*, Berkley.

MARY NIDA SMITH: cover photograph, *Storyteller Magazine* (3/11)

COLLEEN TUCKER: Short Stories: *Echoes of the Ozarks VI*, High Hill Press (2/11); *Mysteries of the Ozarks* (4-11); NOVEL: *Legend of the Golden Huaca*, Litho Press (5-11).

DONNA VOLKENANNT: Essay: Flashlight Memories Anthology, Silver Boomer Books, (4/11); Missouri Writers' Guild President's Award, SHORT STORY, 1st Place (4/11).

RUTH BURKETT WEEKS: NOVEL: *Soldiers in the Mist*, High Hill Press (03/11).

KENNETH H. WILLIAMS: 3 Poems: *Ozarks Mountaineer* (March-April/11).

LES WILLIAMS: Western E-Dime Novel: *Marquez: Western Trail Blazer* (3/11); Western: *Under Nebraska Skies: The Storyteller* (1-3/11).

LARRY WOOD: NONFICTION BOOK: *Wicked Joplin*, History Press (3/11).

Regina and Ruth reveling



Treasurer Brenda bucking for 1st place in the Bull-riding Contest!

2011 President:
deloism@gmail.com

Vice-President:
jymorrill@gmail.com

Treasurer:
831 Plank School Rd. Marshfield, MO 65706
Brinkley.brenda1@gmail.com (417)468-5293

Secretary:
lnwithers@conwaycorp.net (501) 329-7477

Past President: Regina Williams

Past Vice-President: Vacant

Past Secretary: Ellen Withers

Past Treasurer: Brenda Brinkley

Directors: Fred Pfister, Dusty Richards, Cliff Sain, Bob McGill, Harold Pelton, Patti Stith, Ruth Weeks.

Delois McGrew
(479) 927-9009

Jan Morrill
(918) 409-7570

Brenda Brinkley
(417)468-5293

Ellen Withers
(501) 329-7477

Regina Williams

Vacant

Ellen Withers

Brenda Brinkley

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Committee Chairs: Membership – Fred Pfister;
Historian – Ruth Weeks; Contest – Delois McGrew;
Publicity – Cliff Sain; Newsletter – Kimberly Gross;
Website – Richard Howk

MEETING INFORMATION

Motel Accommodations

Boxcar Willie Hotel at 360 Schaefer Dr. offers a rate of \$45.00 plus tax for two. Identify yourself as an OWL member when making reservations. Phone 417-337-7070 for reservations. Check the Boxcar Willie website for directions.

OWL Meeting Place

Ozarks Writers League meets in the Plaster Auditorium at the College of the Ozarks. Through the entrance, follow Opportunity Avenue to Plaster Auditorium, the 3rd major building on the right.

Registration is at **8:30 a.m.**

Cell Phone Courtesy

As a courtesy to our speakers, please turn off your cell phone, or set on vibrate, during the meeting.

Please no conversations in the meeting room.

Use the lobby.



Jory poses with his prize-winning painting and Regina



Quality quilts entered in the OWL Art Contest

Alternative Art winners



2011 OWL CALENDAR

Quarterly (Saturday) Meetings

February 19, May 21, August 20, November 19

Members-Only Contests

Cliff Edom Photography (Things in the Ozarks)

Deadline February 19

Awarded in May

Anthology (Short stories, essays, poems)

Deadline September 1, 2011

All other contests: Deadline Sept. 1, 2011

See website for guidelines for all contests. Send all entries to Ozarks Writers League, c/o Delois McGrew, P.O. Box 9076, Fayetteville, AR 72703 except for the Anthology entries, which go to Lou Turner at louturn@aol.com (For Echoes of the Ozarks, you must have **Echoes Submission** in subject line, or entry may be lost.)



PROGRAM AGENDA May 21, 2011

- 8:30** Registration
9:00 Award children's contest winners. Award Cliff Edom award. Announcements
9:15 Elizabeth Lyon - Writing for Voice, Revising for Style
10:15 Break
10:30 Lyon continues
11:30 Break for lunch on patio
12:N Auction begins in auditorium
2:00 Announcements
2:15 E. Lyon - Writing for Character Driven Plot, Revising for a Page Turner
3:15 Break
3:30 Lyon continues
4:30 Workshop ends
4:35 Board Meeting



DEADLINES FOR MEMBERS

- May 12** – Make reservations for May 21 lunch (deloism@gmail.com).
May 16 – Make reservations for open mic and dinner on May 20. (louturn@aol.com)
May 21 – Bring items to conference for auction.
August 15 – Reservations for open mic and dinner on August 19.
September 1 – Category contest entries due.
September 1 – Anthology, Echoes of the Ozarks VII, entries due.

OZARKS WRITERS LEAGUE
831 Plank School Rd.
Marshfield, MO 65706